PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The technology for banana-based Carbonated Ready-to-Serve (RTS) drinks was developed during September, 2002. The process involves mixing of enzyme clarified banana juice with water, acid and sugar in appropriate combination. Then the drink is pasteurized, aerated with carbon dioxide, bottled and crown corked on a carbonating machine.

(b) The total technology for carbonated and non-carbonated banana-based-beverages is ready for transfer to anyone interested in starting the business.

FPIs in Tripura

1395. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of food processing industries have been sent to the Central Government by Tripura Government during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, so far;

(b) for how many of these cases money has been sanctioned and disbursed and for how many cases sanction is due and money is not released; and

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning money and releasing funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) While 7 proposals from different organisations such as Public Sector Undertakings, Non-Governmental Organisations, Private Industries etc. from Tripura have been received, no proposal from Government of Tripura for food processing industries in the State has been received during 2002-03 and till date.

(b) Out of the these, 3 proposals have been approved and financial assistance released in two cases.

(c) The proposals are examined with reference to their technical feasibility, economic viability and other parameters. Proposals meeting such criteria are provided financial assistance. Since the proposals are examined as per procedure, any delay is due to non-fulfilment of requirements.